

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A water-purifying solid material for microbially purifying water, prepared by processing only a natural raw material containing a polysaccharide as principal component.

2. (Original) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is starch.

3. (Original) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 2, wherein the starch has a C/N ratio of 6 or more.

4. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein 0.1 to 5 g of the solid material is added in 1 L of water to be purified.

5. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the solubility of the solid material to water is lower than that of the natural raw material before processing.

6. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the solid material is in the porous shape.

7. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the solid material is used for growing an aquatic creature.

8. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~, the processing includes a drying treatment.

9. (Currently Amended) A water-purifying method, comprising placing the water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ in a poor-oxygen region of water to be purified.